

HONORING WAWONA MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wawona Middle School upon celebrating their 50th anniversary. The school will celebrate the anniversary with current and former staff and students at an open house to be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Originally named Wawona Junior High School, Wawona first opened its doors for the 1957–1958 school year, and became part of the Bullard Unified School District. Due to the location of the school, Wawona was named for an important area of the southern part of Yosemite National Park. “Wawona” is a local Indian name meaning “big tree.” The people that helped to build Wawona were Superintendent Westin M. Alt, President of the Board of Trustees Carroll H. Baird and board members Harry Bud Buck, Dr. William Adams Jr., Dr. William Beatty, Jr. and Robert McMahan.

Wawona Middle School is now part of Fresno Unified School District. The school was originally located on the outskirts of Fresno, but today it is in the middle of an urban sprawl. As the area has grown and developed, so has the school. In 2000, Wawona began looking into developing a Pre-International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme to enhance the academic program of the school. This program started in 2003 with about sixty sixth grade students and has grown in size each year since. For the 2006–2007 school year, Wawona Middle School had 870 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students enrolled in the school.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Wawona Middle School on 50 years of dedicated service to providing a solid education to the students of Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Wawona Middle School many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANK BROWN

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished service of Dr. Frank Brown, longtime president of Columbus State University.

The longest-serving president in the University System of Georgia will retire this spring after 20 years at the helm. While his time on the job draws short, his legacy at CSU stretches long.

During Dr. Brown's tenure, Columbus State has experienced extraordinary growth and progress. He transitioned the school from a college to a university that now boasts more than 50 undergraduate programs and more than 35 master's or specialist's programs. The school's expansion includes numerous new academic facilities, new housing for more than

1,200 students and a clock tower that has become a symbol of the university and the center of campus life. The school also has developed a downtown campus called RiverPark that houses 350 students and the arts, theater and music departments.

The academic caliber of the university has grown also under Dr. Brown's leadership. The D. Abbott Turner College of Business is now among only about 27 percent of business schools in the country accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; and the College of Education was recently re-accredited by National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Additionally, the nursing, art, theater, music and counseling programs have all achieved national accreditation in their disciplines, a mark of clear distinction in academic circles.

The most recent indication of the university's level of respect may be the success of CSU's capital campaign, An Investment in People. When the campaign was first being considered in the late 1990s, many considered the originally proposed goal of about \$35 million too ambitious. At its conclusion, the campaign exceeded \$100 million, thanks to an unbelievably supportive community, a wide-reaching team of dedicated volunteers and the partnerships established over the years.

The success of CSU under Dr. Brown has benefited the community of Columbus at large, according to Chamber of Commerce President Mike Gaymon. “Thanks to Frank's leadership, the university has expanded to bring three of its schools downtown to make art, music and theater a major part of UpTown Columbus,” Gaymon said. “Dr. Brown has led a renaissance at CSU.”

Dr. Brown's good works off campus complement his accomplishments on campus. He was the 1994 volunteer of the year for the Lung Association of Georgia and he's also contributed his time to the American Red Cross. He's a member of the Columbus First Baptist Church and the Columbus Rotary Club, and he's been involved with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, the Georgia Council on Economic Education and the Boy Scouts of America.

When announcing his retirement from Columbus State, Dr. Brown said the time was simply right for a new leader to build on the successes of the past 20 years. Admirers of Dr. Brown will no doubt feel a certain pity for the successor who must fill such big shoes.

Over the past generation, our state of Georgia has moved from the backwaters to the forefront of the American higher education systems. It has been the leadership, intelligence, dedication and perseverance of educators such as Dr. Frank Brown that have lifted higher education in Georgia to standards of excellence.

More than the students and alumni at Columbus State University owe Dr. Frank Brown a debt of gratitude. His contributions are felt positively throughout the Greater Columbus area. Upon his retirement, we can look back and pay him the ultimate compliment: He dedicated his career to a worthwhile endeavor, and he left it better off than how he found it. In Frank Brown's case, he left it immeasurably better than he found it. For that, we thank him and we praise him. As he moves on into another phase of life we wish health and happiness to him and his wife Jo Ann.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 205 through 233: I was absent on Tuesday, April 22nd, Wednesday, April 23rd, and Thursday, April 24th due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted, “yea” on rollcall vote 205, “yea” on rollcall vote 206, “yea” on rollcall vote 207, “nay” on rollcall vote 208, “yea” on rollcall vote 209, “yea” on rollcall vote 210, “nay” on rollcall vote 211, “nay” on rollcall vote 212, “yea” on rollcall vote 213, “yea” on rollcall vote 214, “yea” on rollcall vote 215, “yea” on rollcall vote 216, “yea” on rollcall vote 217, “nay” on rollcall vote 218, “nay” on rollcall vote 219, “yea” on rollcall vote 220, “yea” on rollcall vote 221, “yea” on rollcall vote 222, and “yea” on rollcall vote 223.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
COURAGE OF MARVIN JOHNSON

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong work of a true fighter for civil liberties and civil rights, Marvin Johnson. Sadly, Marv passed away on March 21, after a long battle with complications from diabetes. It is a personal loss to those who knew him as a friend and colleague, and a loss to the many Americans who will never know how tirelessly he fought for their rights, sometimes against great odds, and often for the truly unpopular cause.

At the time of his passing, Marv was the first amendment counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington Legislative Office, a position he held for 8 years. During that time, he led many of the fights to protect the first amendment and our fundamental freedoms. He fought to ensure that all Americans enjoyed their freedom of expression, not only in print or in the public square, but also in ways that the framers never could have imagined—on television or on the internet.

Marv also wrote two reports detailing the dangers of domestic spying by Federal law enforcement, including an examination of the tactics used by our Government against Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we now struggle to regain these precious constitutional rights, Marv's work has become even more important. As Marv wrote, “American citizens must once again be confident they may exercise their constitutionally protected right to protest government policy without becoming targets of government scrutiny.”

Marv was also an outstanding resource. His vast knowledge and sound judgment were always ready to aid us in our work. As the Chair of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I always valued Marv's views, even on those occasions where we disagreed.

Prior to his time in Washington, Marv was the Executive Director of the ACLU of Wyoming and before that, he was its board chair.